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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S) : Diaddario, Jr.
TITLE : TRIVALENT CHROME CONVERSION COATING
APPLICATION NO. : 10/056,530
FILED : January 24, 2002
CONFIRMATION NO. : 4334
EXAMINER : Zheng, Lois
ART UNIT : 1742
LAST OFFICE ACTION : January 19, 2005
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : PVOZ 2 00009

DECLARATION OF LEONARD L. DIADDARIO, JR., AND MICHAEL MARZANO

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

As persons signing below,

1. We, Leonard L. Diaddario, Jr., and Michael Marzano, do hereby declare that we are the inventors in the above-identified United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/056,530 ("the '530 application").

2. Leonard L. Diaddario, Jr., received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from John Carroll University in 1973; a Master of Science degree in analytical chemistry from Wayne State University in 1977; and a Ph. D. in analytical chemistry from Wayne State University in 1979. Leonard Diaddario has over 25 years of industrial experience including 2 years as a Staff Scientist at Purdue University; 10 years as a Senior Research Chemist, Project Leader, Senior Project Leader, and Staff Chemist at Celanese Corporation and Hoechst-Celanese

Corporation; and 2 years as a Quality Control Supervisor at Amersco, Inc. Leonard Diaddario has worked for the past 8 years as a Senior Research Chemist at Pavco, Inc., which is the assignee of the '530 application.

3. Michael Marzano received a Bachelor of Science degree from Cleveland State University in 1971. Michael Marzano has worked for Pavco, Inc., the assignee, for 31 years, including 2 years as a Laboratory Chemist and Service Technician and 29 years as a Research and Development Chemist and a Senior Research and Development Chemist. During the last 8 years, Michael Marzano has also worked for Pavco in the position of Technical Director and Research and Development Director.

4. The claims pending before the United States Patent and Trademark Office are directed to conversion coating compositions, conversion coating baths, conversion coating bath compositions, and methods for applying a colored conversion coating onto an article using such baths and compositions. The claims recite that, in addition to other features, such compositions and baths are substantially free of oxidizing agents other than nitrate ions.

5. Some claims recite that the compositions or baths may further comprise one or more of sulfate ions, fluoride ions, or film polishing agents. Some of the claims further recite that the film polishing agent may comprise fluoride ions.

6. Based on our education and experience, we declare that any sulfate ions, fluoride ions, or film polishing agents, which may include fluoride ions, as may be present in certain claims, do not act as oxidizing agents in compositions, concentrates, conversion coating compositions, conversion coating baths, or methods employing such concentrates, compositions, or baths. The sulfate ions, fluoride ions, or film polishing agents, which may include fluoride ions or fluoride salts, are not oxidizing agents, or, even if any of these could reasonably be considered oxidizing agents, do not act to oxidize the chromium from the trivalent state (Cr(III)) to the hexavalent state (Cr(VI)).

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Leonard L. Diaddario, Jr. Date: 8/26/05
Leonard L. Diaddario, Jr.

Michael Marzano Date: 26 August 2005
Michael Marzano